

CAT · GOSSIP

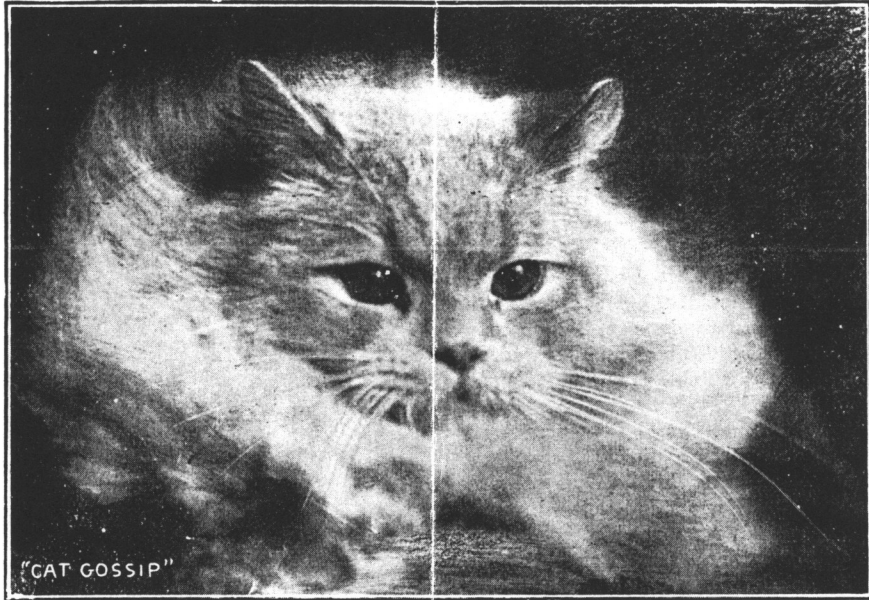
VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 79

JUNE 13th, 1928

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COLNESIDE CREAM BUNNE.

Colneside Cream Bunne is the property of Madame Dollie, the famous dancer and opera singer. This magnificent cream stud (the second best cream male of the season) was bred by Mrs. Bazeley. His sire was the famous Ch. Billy Bumpet, and his mother Colneside Charming, a lovely tortie daughter of Ch. Shazada. Madame Dollie purchased him when six

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SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY P. WADE.

I hope every member has received a notice of the General Meeting of the Siamese Cat Club, to be held on June 21st, at 3 o'clock, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C. If by any chance anyone has not had the notice, will they take this as an invitation, and forgive me my many delinquencies. There are the new rules to be discussed, and, what is most important of all, the Siamese Cat Club Show, to be held at Philbeach Hall, Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, on September 26th. For this undertaking we want your loyal support. The Show Manager will do her best, but she has not had much experience,

and to make the Show a success you must help us. Please do make a great effort to come to the meeting and give us your suggestions.

I am worried at the very low prices people are asking for their female Siamese. When you hear of breeders offering to sell them at seven months for 30s., and not finding a buyer even then, I think it is serious. Males one cannot get enough of, and I have been able to sell all I could get hold of for £4 4s. and upwards. Would it not be better, for a year or two, to destroy the females at birth, unless previously ordered? I cannot endure to think of what a glut in females might mean to the cats themselves. I think every unwanted cat is a tragedy, but, being prejudiced, an unwanted Siamese seems more of a tragedy still. They are such very per-

sonal friends, and to think of any poor cat being turned out for the crime of having kittens makes me sick. Will not breeders and readers of this give us their views. I know they would be interesting, and I expect many of you will tell me I'm very stupid, which is quite true! Quite between ourselves, female Siamese are at a bit of a discount in this house just now. My lady Chanti has been making life a burden by screaming all day and all night for four days, and every gentleman cat in St. John's Wood is round this house doing the Romeo stunt.

I have received the following amusing letter from a novice, Mr. Hirst, who mated his cat to Mr. Wickling's Iamit, and she has six kittens. He says: "Surely cat farming is the greatest game out. We looked at a breeders' table in an agricultural text book, and there learned that cats went 50 days in young. So for a whole fortnight and three days last thing at night before going to bed we sallied out in the cold to see Ming in her shed—no kittens! Then, first thing in the morning, it was a race who was up first to see old Ming, neglecting even the cherished cup of tea—alas! no kittens. After a while we decided Ming had forgotten the date, but consoled ourselves that she would have to do something about it before long, as she could not possibly waddle around much longer in her aldermanic condition. Now she has done it, and given us a worse shock than ever—six lovely kittens, but she has forgotten the colouring. They are white! But someone has told us that Siamese are born white, so we breathe freely. We are not out of the wood yet—oh, dear no—the worry has broken out in a fresh place. There are four kittens of one sex and two of another, but which is 'tother.' So far we have got no further. Can't you see us, and pity us, two poor lone cat farmers!"

I have received sad news from Miss Hobbs, of Romford. Her very beautiful neuter, Baa-Baa, a son of Ch. Bonzo, died after a few hours' illness. She goes on to say: "Daffodil's six kits by Bonzo, now a month old, are grand, with such lovely eyes. Fluffie has failed to Bonzo, but Mr. Lewis has kindly promised to let her visit Bonzo again. Baa-Baa was a great nuisance to me owing to his awful howls and huge appetite, to say nothing of his mischievous ways, but I do miss him. Poor little chap, he had a sweet disposition, purring as loud as an aeroplane whenever he was spoken to.

Now Mr. Brooke is home again, so you will have a rest from me. I am ever so grateful to everybody who sent me news.

NOTICE.

We return home on Monday, 18th, when correspondence can be addressed to us, as before, at Bishop's Hull. We beg subscribers to send in their overdue subs., of which they were notified before our departure, promptly, without putting us to the trouble of further notification, as we shall be very busy.

LONG-HAIR LORE AND WEEKLY GOSSIP.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

"The time has come, the Walrus said,
To talk of many things."

(Lewis Carroll.)

That very nice black L.H. queen, Patsy Dinah, from the Hillingdon Cattery, has become the property of Mrs. Tuck, of Oldham, who is very rightly delighted with her. Patsy Dinah, besides being a very dear pet of her former mistress, Mrs. McClure, has proved herself an excellent mother of show kittens, Hillingdon Black Jester, that handsome boy shown last season was her son, and she is litter sister to Mrs. Soame's stud, Soame Desert Chief. We wish Mrs. Tuck good luck with her sensible purchase.

In 1927 a new monkey house was built at the Zoo, to replace the old house, which had no outside cages, but was arranged on the theory that as most monkeys come from warm climates their chief need was protection from cold. Now, I am not going to try and persuade all cat lovers at once to give up the feline and embark on monkeys as pets, but just to bring to your notice the description of the monkey's new home, for it would make a most ideal cattery, and impresses on our minds the crying need which every creature has of fresh air. In the new house every inside cage communicates with an open-air cage by a swing door, through which the monkeys can pass when they please. The outdoor cages have a veranda, but the greater part is open to wind, rain, or snow, all of which the animals seem to enjoy. The interior is thoroughly ventilated, and no effort is made to keep the air hot, or even to prevent draughts. The floor and shelves, however, have a heating apparatus to keep them warm, and above each cage there are electric lights, and heaters, which throws beams of radiant light and heat on the perches on which the monkeys sit. Straw and sleeping boxes are also provided, and every device has been adopted to secure complete sanitation. Happy little monkeys!!

Langton House, Yorks, tells of the mis-doings of Carina. She has destroyed her litter, whose advent, as they were sired by Simeon of Westfield, was much exciting the mind of her owner, Mrs. Dodgshun. A second queen from this cattery is to visit Mercury of Pensford, and will, we trust, behave in a more civilised manner than her "stable companion." Mrs. Dodgshun thinks a disturbance may have been the cause of the mishap, which is more than probable—fright or worms in the mother are the two chief factors in cases such as this—always taking for granted that "the thirst" of Mrs. Puss has been quenched.

Manx are such interesting creatures that I am confident that if men only knew more about these cats the Lords of Creation would flock to their standard, and then how our Fancy would go ahead! By the way, have any of you seen the new, very attractive railway poster of the Isle of Man, with its ever-cheery cat; the cat whose smile won't come off! To find that cat I would almost risk that terrific tossing



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to the island! No doubt Mr. Killip knows the whereabouts of this merry fellow, for he has exported many rattling good specimens of this taking variety.

Readers will be glad to learn that Miss Helen Hill-Shaw is shortly to give us an article on the Manx. She and Miss Theodora Cockram are accepted authorities on the subject, and have both owned valuable prize-winners. Also 'tis well for the Fancy that Miss A. Kent's delightful Manx boys, Eubonius and Ferish, have several Manx litters to their credit by queens belonging to Miss Hill-Shaw. May prosperity attend the 'no-tails.'

A very busy letter comes from Gateshead this week. Mrs. Gilbert, who loves her cats, has been having a very fortunate breeding season. I especially like some red tabby kittens, by To-To and that handsome tortie queen Pompilia, who annexed a championship and does not shirk her responsibilities as a mother. A silver tabby female is the latest addition to this Northern cattery, and though the queen is only half-bred Persian, Mrs. Gilbert says her markings are so clear and the ground colour so pale that she should throw good results. The lovely silver tabbies badly require now votaries, so we hope Mrs. Gilbert's efforts in this direction will be crowned by success. Our North Country cousins are very keen Fanciers, as anyone will find if they visit Newcastle or any of their other shows. Their attitude towards their hobby (be it what it may), their sportsmanlike ways, and the pleasant atmosphere of their gatherings linger in one's memory.

From amongst the "Housewives' Secrets" in the "Morning Post" comes an extremely useful hint to we cat owners—for claws will be claws. This hint is given by Mrs. Freda Dobson-Gerber, Villa Beny, La Tour de Peilz, Vivey, and runs as follow: "Having two leather armchairs, very faded, and shabby, a local bookbinder advised me to give them several coatings of ordinary starch well rubbed in, allowing each coating to dry well in the sun. Result: Chairs are now almost like new. My cat has a bad habit of sharpening her claws on the leather, but the scratches are quickly effaced with starch."

Those who wish to spend a pleasant time in lovely surroundings should find time to visit Harrogate Agricultural Show, to be held on August 10th and 11th. Cat classes are to be a feature, so those having cats or kittens should enjoy a good time. Interesting sheepdog trials and leaping take place in the evening of the first day, and over £2,000 is to be distributed in prize monies. The Blue Persian Cat Society and the S.C.C.C. are both offering specials.

Fine beautiful kittens often are the reward when litters prove small, and this Miss Bowden Smith will, I hope, find with her two queens, Dawn and Cinderella; the former has only one kitten, and Dawn has two—a black and a blue. Meare of Barley Hill, a Chinchilla, has two very lovely babies by Peter of Aldwych, but as they are with a friend Miss Bowden Smith has not yet seen them. A pretty tale comes to hand about Moonbeam, a seven months old Chinchilla, who retrieves like a dog. The lesson was

learnt by the throwing of a ball of wool, which the little kitten would bring back and lay at your feet repeatedly. Now, however, even if she does not see the ball fall, she hunts until she finds it, and brings it back. Miss Bowden Smith is expecting a family of Goblins by Wendy of the Cottage. As Wendy is no longer very youthful a foster must be found by June 11th; perhaps someone in Reading will bear this in mind; it is so sad to see the healthy babes go under for want of maternal care. Wendy will, I hope, sustain her kits for three or four days to give us a chance to help her.

Speaking of the "retrieving" habit of the cat, a Siamese I knew had quite a gift for catching fish, getting them out of a shallow pool and placing them on the bank for his master, and if I am not mistaken the ancient Egyptians used their cats for this purpose, but for this I must refer you to our learned Editor, whom I hear to-day has left Vienna, and is now on his homeward journey. I must just take this opportunity of thanking all my many kind friends who have helped me to "carry on" with our little paper during his absence.

ARE THE BROWNIES WORTH REVIVING?

Miss L. Hotson replies: "My answer is a decided 'Yes!' They are very handsome, as anyone who remembers the teams Miss Whitney brought over from Ireland and the cats that were shown against them can testify. They are also intelligent, affectionate, and strong. We still have the Persimmon, Brayfort, and Malone strain to work upon. We have a steep hill to climb, but it can be done by any Fancier who has the perfection of the breed in view. We need to deepen the ground colour, and get away from the 'greyish' tint that came after the death of all the best during the war. I do not think cream studs will help us at all to get back to the rich sable; we should breed to one of the good red tabbies, this will probably give us brownies, and, perhaps, tortoiseshells. Either of these mated to Ch. Mascot or Brown Deer should produce a better ground colour. I grant you it will be hard work, but what is worth winning without it? and good Brownies are worth it. If only a few of the old Fanciers would take the breeding of brown tabbies up again, and the novices with cue or two house pets, there will be no queries on this subject. I agree with the late Miss Frances Simpson that the real novice is often the most successful breeder."

JUDGING CATS AT VIENNA.

(Continued from page 327.)

"Im Katzenjammer Kommt Das Gleuck."
(Old Song.)

It was pleasant to renew acquaintance with our old bulldog friends of a quarter of a century ago, and to find that they yet kept us in such friendly remembrance that they published and sent out to all bulldog breeders an urgent summons to come with

their best dogs to parade before us, a really old-fashioned jolly evening to follow, where

"Beim Bier und beim Wein
Lustige Pappenheimer wollen wir sein."

It is nice to still be so much thought after, after a fifteen years' absence, and with a World War in between.

On the day following our arrival we were taken to the Zoo at Schoenbrunn, and, confirmed later of democracy and all its works as we are, we are bound to admit that the Republic has improved matters here. Instead of being a Royal possession administered by a Court official, it is now a State affair, with a trained zoologist, Professor Antonius, at its head. The professor kindly devoted an afternoon to showing us round. We were interested to learn that that prehistoric animal, the European Bison, whose almost complete extermination was one of the war's greatest tragedies, breeds freely here. A Jaguarondi Cat from South America, though suffering from an umbilical hernia, has been here for some years, as has also an Indian Viverrine or Fishing Cat. This animal has regularly to be netted and caught up to have the claws of one forefoot clipped. An employé of the Gardens, noticing that a tame cat when "calling" constantly frequented the Fishing Cat's cage, put her in, hoping to obtain a cross. Next morning only her head was left, but she had bitten her foe through the muscles of one front leg, so that for many weeks he could not use it properly, but carried it straight out in front of him. Thus the claws, never being used or trimmed, grew to an abnormal length and thickness. A beautiful Ocelot lives constantly in an open-air cage. Professor Antonius is evidently no believer in coddling. At the London Gardens the ant-eaters are kept in the hottest house there is; here we saw a magnificent specimen in AI trim running cheerfully about an outdoor paddock on a cold May afternoon. A European Wild Cat pair had produced young—a rare occurrence. The Professor hurried to my friend, Herr Lesti, to obtain a foster-mother; but, alas, on his return he found the kittens had already been eaten. A great pity, for in Austria the Wild Cat is—more shame to the landowners!—being as rapidly exterminated as in Great Britain.

We will now turn to the Show itself, and show in what respect England, the Mother of Fancies, might well take lessons from Austria, or, at any rate, from Vienna. Considering the enormous number of Fanciers in London, it seems incomprehensible that they should nowhere have joined together and purchased a plot of ground in some suburb, and erected a Fanciers' Hall available for the use of all sections, instead of continuing in the present expensive and unsatisfactory manner, spending yearly vast sums of money on rent for more or less unsatisfactory halls, baths, etc. The Viennese Fanciers, wiser, have acquired in the famous Prater a plot of ground, for which they pay the State about £10 yearly—for no land in the Prater may be purchased outright. Here

they have erected a spacious and commodious bungalow Fanciers' house, with Dining Club and Committee Rooms, kitchen, and every possible convenience apart from sleeping accommodation, exhibition rooms, pens, exercise pens, aviaries, etc., which we shall more clearly describe. The Clubs concerned are the Poultry Breeders' Club, the Cat Club, and the Austrian Bulldog Club, who here possess every convenience for shows, etc., and can, if necessary and advisable, let the exhibition facilities to other Fanciers' Clubs.

(To be Continued.)

ON THE FEEDING OF YOUNG KITTENS.

BY MRS. ESTELLE OGLETHORPE.

It sounds Irish, but when giving advice on the rearing of young kittens, one might say "Feed the mother, and the kittens will take care of themselves."

This they should certainly do until they are a month old, when they can have one meal daily of milk, Lactol, or Bengers' food, just to teach them how to lap, and when they are able to do this quite nicely they may be fed twice and thrice daily at regular intervals. I like to provide a nice flat plate, and let the mother feed with them. She likes to show them how it should be done, and they certainly seem to enjoy feeding together.

Later, of course, they must be fed separately, or someone will get the lion's share, and the slow feeders will be left behind. When the queen is in kitten she should have extra meals at least twice daily. That is to say in addition to her usual meals she should have at least two extra ones of Bengers' food, or any milk food she prefers. My queens invariably take at least a pint of Bengers' daily when in kitten or whilst rearing a family.

One of the finest litters I ever reared was brought up on Lactol. There were five kittens, and they were always up to weight and never ailed anything. It was a joy to see them grow in health and beauty day by day.

Brown's barley kernels is an excellent food for cats and kits. This should be made according to directions on packet, and if too stiff a little milk may be added. I have daily deliveries of filleted whitening, which they much enjoy, and with which I mix a little liquid paraffin several times a week. I am told that in sweetening food for cats and kittens one should always use brown sugar, as it keeps them free from worms, and is also very pure and nourishing.

(To be Continued.)

VISITS.

June 2nd.—Miss Grayton's **Romulus Freedia**, to Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's **Hendon Pish-Tush**.

June 6th.—Miss Balaam's **Black Justine of Wellingborough**, to Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's **Hendon Eastbury Bonlie**.

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor.

H. C. BROOKE,

Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

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